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WDZS

7 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col Terhune

SUBJECT: Presentation to the Stewart Committee on WS-117L

1. On 7 February 1956, the undersigned assisted by representatives of BMD, WADC, BADC, AFCRC, and R-W, briefed the Stewart Committee at its request on the Initial Test Phase of WS-117L. Prior to this briefing, Dr. Lombard, DCS/D had advised the undersigned of General Putt's views concerning this program and in particular had indicated that General Putt did not wish to hold out for total approval, but would accept approval of a portion of the program. Dr. Lombard was requested to provide this guidance to General Power in view of his concurrence in the program as presented.

2. To dispel the comment that the Preliminary Development Plan was a "sales pitch" it was pointed out that our intention was to simply and honestly present our concept of how to conduct the initial test phase of the ARS program on a time scale compatible with the IGY period. In answer to questions, it was estimated that this involved an acceleration of the ARS program by six months to a year.

3. The Committee was interested in the ICBM interferences and benefits of such an effort. It was indicated that by careful scheduling, and by restricting the characteristics of the orbiting vehicle, to approximate the ICBM warhead, engineering interference was kept small. Production was considered to be a small interference problem since sufficient lead time exists. Test facility interference is held to a minimum by construction of sufficient stands to make the ARS program self-sufficient. After a detailed review of the ICBM test philosophy, it was recognized that the major benefit to the ICBM program was the opportunity to acquire additional statistical testing under flight conditions with minimum expense.

4. The Committee questioned at length our liaison with the Vanguard program, our intentions concerning use of Vanguard facilities, and our thoughts concerning use of Vanguard subsystems. We indicated a need for closer liaison and asserted that the other points are under continuing study; but that we would certainly use whatever of the Vanguard program was suitable, but called attention to the fact that the IGY activity is only one aspect of this program which is primarily aimed at ARS. We indicated that matters such as this along with such things as the release of data must be reviewed jointly when our role is clarified.

5. Numerous questions related to funding requirements, source of funds, modification to the program possible, our interest in undertaking the program, etc. The replies to such questions can best be summarized that we made an earnest effort to provide the information requested, if available. On matters of policy or opinion, we deferred to the judgment of higher headquarters.

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DOD DIR 5200.10
WDZS-56-5

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Memo for: Cal Tarhume, Subj: WS-117L Presentation

6. On the whole, the Committee seemed interested and generally satisfied with the presentation and discussion. They provided no hint of their conclusions and were to meet in executive session during the afternoon to prepare their comments to the [redacted] Policy Council.

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Colonel, USAF
Assistant for Systems Management